



The Purpose of Law

- “To regulate the flow of human interaction.” (*Weber*)
- Make the behavior of others predictable
- Support social order

The Purpose of Law (cont.)

- Other purposes:
 - Banishing private retribution
 - Reflecting public opinion
 - Deterring criminal acts
 - Punishing offenders
 - Providing socioeconomic control

Four Primary Movements Influenced the Victims' Movement

- Civil rights movement
- Anti-war movement
- Women's movement
- “Law and order” movement

Stage One: Response to Crime (1972-1976)

- First compensation program
- National commissions and LEAA
- National Crime Victimization Survey
- Grassroots programs
- NOVA founded
- First victim impact statement

Stage Two: Polarization and Unstable Funding (1977-1981)

- LEAA funding
- New organizations: NCASA, NCADV, POMC, MADD, VALOR
- President proclaims “Crime Victims’ Week”
- Legislative developments

Stage Three: Public Awareness (1982-1986)

- President's Task Force on Victims of Crime
- *Federal Victim and Witness Protection Act*
- State legislation
- VOCA
- Establishment of OVC

*Stage Three: Public Awareness
(1982-1986) (cont.)*

- National Victim Center founded
- New programs
- Theoretical concepts

*Stage Four: Expanding Legislative Agenda
(1987-1991)*

- Victims' rights funding
- Victims' rights
- Law and order concerns.
- Emphasis on:
 - State victims' rights constitutional amendments
 - Planning for a federal amendment

*Stage Five: Emerging Professionalism and
Advancing Advocacy (1992-Present)*

- Professionalism:
 - NVAA annual national Academy
 - State academies supported by OVC
 - Victim-related academic programs in universities.
 - University of South Carolina-OVC project on professionalizing the field

*Stage Five: Emerging Professionalism and
Advancing Advocacy (1992-Present) (cont.)*

- Advancing advocacy:
 - Federal constitutional amendment introduced
 - 33 states with constitutional amendments
 - Landmark federal legislation
 - Federal Crime Victims Fund
 - Aviation disasters
 - Terrorism-related victims' rights

History of Victim Services in South Carolina

- Victims' rights.
- Victim and witness assistance units.
- Victim impact statements.
- Medical exams of sexual assault victims.
- Selective historical dates (please refer to Chapter 1 for specifics).

“What Is Past Is Prologue.”

- Inscription on the Archives Building in Washington, DC